

**THE EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION IN WHICH AN EXCLUSIVE  
PROPERTY OR PRIVILEGE IS CLAIMED ARE DEFINED AS FOLLOWS:**

- 5    1. An electric power bar, comprising:
  - a body;
  - an electrical cord adapted to plug the body into an electrical outlet of a building;
  - the body having at least one female receptacle which receives power via the electrical
  - cord, the female receptacle being adapted to receive a plug from one of a computer or
  - 10    ancillary equipment whereby power is supplied to the computer or the ancillary equipment;
  - the body having a communications module, whereby the communications module
  - serves as a conduit for sending and receiving messages; and
  - the body having at least one of an Ethernet receptacle, an universal serial bus
  - receptacle, or a telephone jack receptacle in communication with the communications
  - 15    module, whereby a computer is connected to the communications module.
2. The electric power bar as defined in Claim 1, wherein the communications module has a  
phone line in receptacle and a phone line out receptacle.
- 20    3. The electric power bar as defined in Claim 1, wherein the body has an Ethernet  
receptacle, an universal serial bus receptacle, and a telephone jack receptacle all in  
communication with the communications module, whereby a computer can be connected in  
one of several different ways to the communications module.
- 25    4. The electric power bar as defined in Claim 1, wherein the communications module  
comprises a replaceable modem.